

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 /011 W
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R 071424Z MAR 74 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO USIA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 6706

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 3290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: OUTDOOR RECREATION EXHIBIT: KISHINEV

REF: STATE 044295

1. ON-FLOOR QUESTIONING IN KISHINEV MORE AGGRESSIVE AND HARD-LINE, AND AFTER-HOURS SURVEILLANCE MORE OBVIOUS AND OBTRUSIVE THAN IN PREVIOUS CITIES. HOWEVER, BELIEVE THESE ARE LOCAL PHENOMENA AND THAT DELIBERATE, CENTRALLY-PLANNED POLICY OF HARASSMENT IS NOT INVOLVED. GUIDES' MORALE NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED.
2. ATMOSPHERE IN KISHINEV MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN ANY OF FIRST FOUR CITIES. VISITORS TO EXHIBIT NOTICEABLY CAUTIOUS IN THEIR COMMENTS ABOUT THE SOVIET SCENE AND SOCIAL INVITATIONS TO GUIDES, QUITE COMMON IN OTHER CITIES, RARE IN KISHINEV. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS APPROACHING GUIDES WITH SET-PIECE, HARD-LINE ARGUMENTS NOTICEABLY LARGER.
3. GUIDES HAVE REPORTED SEVERAL INSTANCES OF BEING FOLLOWED AROUND CITY AND SOVIET CITIZENS IN COMPANY OF GUIDES HAVE BEEN STOPPED AND QUESTIONED ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS. THIS KIND OF OFFICIAL ATTENTION NEW EXPERIENCE FOR THIS GROUP OF GUIDES SINCE AUTHORITIES IN YEREVAN MAINTAINED MUCH MORE CASUAL ATTITUDE ABOUT CONTACTS WITH LOCAL CITIZENRY.
4. WHILE GUIDES NATURALLY FIND RESTRICTIVE ATMOSPHERE

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SOMEWHAT FRUSTRATING, MORALE REMAINS EXCELLENT AND THEIR

WORK PERFORMANCE UNAFFECTED. IN FACT, MANY GUIDES FIND ENCOUNTERS WITH HARD-LINERS MORE CHALLENGING AND STIMULATING THAN STANDARD VISITOR CONVERSATION.

5. NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT GUIDE BEHAVIOR ON OR OFF FLOOR HAVE BEEN REGISTERED BY CHAMBER REPRESENTATIVES, SOMETHING WHICH HAS OCCURRED IN PREVIOUS CITIES WHEN OFFICIALS DISPLEASED ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES. NO OTHER INDICATIONS, FORMAL OR INFORMAL, OF SOVIET DISPLEASURE RECEIVED.
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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